

# issues

## Message from the State Veterinarian

In this day and age the quest for better, faster and more accurate applies to nearly everything—particularly veterinary medicine. With the transportation of livestock becoming more common, be it for exhibition, pleasure or sale, BOAH is always searching for new ways to simplify the veterinarian's role in this process. You are all familiar with the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). This document has been used for decades, and hasn't changed much since its inception.

BOAH is taking a huge step in modernizing the standard CVI. BOAH is launching a partnership with GlobalVetLink (GVL) to offer Hoosier practitioners electronic health certificates in addition to the standard paper CVI.

GVL is accessible through a secure web-based system. To ensure security, the system requires each practitioner with USDA-APHIS federal accreditation to register for a secure user ID and password. This secure server is managed and maintained daily, making information updates and data changes more efficient.

These certificates provide a simple point-and-click method of preparing CVIs. By using GVL practitioners will be able to:

- Save administrative time, labor and money;
- Provide clients with clean professional forms and digital images;
- Access a web-based animal health regulatory management system 24/7;
- View regulations for all 50 states online and other valuable links; and
- Submit documents to the appropriate animal health authorities.

GVL have gone to great lengths to ensure the system is secure and accurate. The system is an improved service to practicing veterinarians and their clients, and one that will assist our collaborative efforts in responding to animal health issues through expedient data analysis.

I anticipate the GVL program being up and running by early 2006. I encourage you all to consider working with BOAH and GVL on this excellent opportunity. More information is available on the GlobalVetLink website at [www.globalvetlink.com](http://www.globalvetlink.com). Once the state-GVL agreement is in place, more details about enrolling in the program, as well as training will be available.

### Important Information Online Now!

The 2006 Indiana Exhibition Requirements are available online at [www.boah.in.gov](http://www.boah.in.gov). In an effort to eliminate unnecessary postage expenses, BOAH will not be sending the requirements by mail this year.

BOAH intends to take advantage of more cost-effective and timely forms of communication including email and FAX. If BOAH does not have an up-to-date email address or FAX number for you, it will hinder your ability to receive correspondence in the future. Please contact the agency at [animalhealth@boah.in.gov](mailto:animalhealth@boah.in.gov) or **317-227-0375** to update your information.

Bret D. Marsh, DVM  
Indiana State Veterinarian

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## BOAH Board Actions

**DURING THEIR** regular meeting, Board members took the following actions:

- Adopted a scrapie rule concerning the movement of sheep and goats, record keeping, testing for scrapie and other requirements for the purpose of detecting and controlling scrapie in sheep and goats;
- Adopted a rule to incorporate sections of the 2005 compendium on animal rabies control;
- Adopted a rule concerning slaughter of domestic rabbits for human consumption;
- Approved first readings of three proposals that will be considered again for a final vote after public hearings at their Jan. 19, 2006 meeting:
  - Amends the rule concerning movement of sheep and goats into Indiana in reference to identification and health requirements for exhibiting sheep and goats;
  - Amends the rule concerning the amount of time following a whole-herd tuberculosis test during which animals may be moved into Indiana from modified accredited or accreditation preparatory states or zones without an individual tuberculin test;
  - Rule providing procedures to be used by the State Veterinarian to accomplish condemnation and indemnity.

## Meat & Poultry

**IT'S OFFICIAL:** The Board has adopted a law to authorize an inspection program for the slaughter of domesticated rabbits and the processing of rabbit products for human consumption. As a voluntary program, slaughter facilities will be charged a fee for this inspection process.

According to Indiana's Retail Food Establishment Sanitation Requirements, all meat products sold by food vendors must be processed at an inspected facility. All rabbit meat currently sold in Indiana must be imported from other states, as locally no state or USDA facilities are approved for the inspection of rabbit slaughter and processing. This new rule provides opportunity for growth in Indiana's meat rabbit industry.

## Companion Animal

**CHANGES IN** Indiana's Rabies rule has been approved by the Board. These changes include amending the current rule to update the *Compendium on Animal Rabies Control* from the 2001 version to the 2005 version.

Major changes in these versions deal with vaccination requirements. The first change clarifies that if a previously vaccinated animal is overdue for a booster, it should be revaccinated. Immediately following the booster, the animal is considered currently vaccinated and should be placed on an annual or triannual schedule, depending on the type of vaccine used. The second change would require animals quarantined for 6 months to be vaccinated either at the time of exposure or 1 month prior to release. The *2005 Compendium of Animal Rabies Control* is available at [www.boah.in.gov](http://www.boah.in.gov).

## Cattle/Ruminant

**JOHNE'S TESTING** is currently at a temporary halt. Funds for the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program are provided through an agreement with USDA. Due to funding cutbacks, as well as changes in when funds are awarded to states, BOAH must immediately, but temporarily stop testing.

The new Johne's year will begin on June 1 and funding will be in place at that time. For those practitioners who have already submitted invoices, these will be paid; however, it may take a considerable amount of time. For questions concerning the Johne's program, please contact Dr. Tam Garland, Cattle/Ruminant Director, at 317-227-0319 or [tgarland@boah.in.gov](mailto:tgarland@boah.in.gov).

**MINNESOTA'S TUBERCULOSIS** (TB) status has been changed to Modified Accredited Advanced. This change moves Minnesota to one level below TB Free Status. To date, 42 herds have been quarantined as a result of Minnesota's TB investigation; 32 of these operations have been removed from quarantine as testing showed no infection in the herd.

## Scrapie

**THE BOARD** has voted to approve changes to the scrapie rule concerning the movement of sheep and goats into Indiana, identification of sheep and goats, record keeping, testing for scrapie and other requirements for the purpose of detecting and controlling scrapie in sheep and goats. This rule is needed to meet federal regulations pertaining to the national scrapie program. This rule will not result in changes for Indiana producers, as BOAH has been following federal regulation regarding scrapie since the inception of the program. This rule incorporates the current program into state law.

## Dairy

**THE DAIRY** transition team has been working to evaluate the current status of the Dairy Division. To gather feedback from all sectors of the dairy industry, the team is preparing a survey to be distributed statewide to the dairy industry. The results of this survey will be used as a tool to assess the needs of the division and develop strategies and goals for strengthening BOAH's role in the Hoosier dairy industry.

## Disaster Preparedness/ASERT

**THE INAUGURAL ASERT** (or Animal Surveillance Emergency Response Teams) training sessions were a great success. Sixty Hoosier veterinarians joined BOAH and USDA-APHIS staff for training in all aspects of emergency response including incident command and agriculture bioterrorism. Experts from across the country spoke about a variety of topics from animal health to emergency planning.

ASERTs will serve as resources to local emergency planners and may be called upon to respond during animal health emergencies in support of BOAH to detect, contain and control disease. The ASERTs will also serve as a resource to educate producers at a local level of the importance of biosecurity and disaster preparedness.

## Animal Identification

**PREMISE REGISTRATION** continues at a steady pace in Indiana. Dr. Jennifer Greiner, ID Programs Director, has been traveling the state meeting with producers, exhibitors and commodity groups to explain the benefits of premise registration. Dr. Greiner is currently speaking to Indiana beef producers statewide at the annual Indiana Beef Cattlemen's Association Regional Meetings.

The number of premises registered in Indiana continues to grow as more premise registration forms arrive daily. With the help of local commodity groups and Farm Service Agency, BOAH now has more than 2200 premises registered. Mailing of premise ID cards for registered sites has begun, so producers who have completed registrations will be receiving verification within the next few weeks.

## Avian

**GROWING CONCERNS** and media attention about a potential outbreak of avian influenza (H5N1)

have raised questions about domestic poultry in Indiana as well as the ongoing efforts by BOAH related to this highly contagious disease. BOAH, in cooperation with the Indiana State Poultry Association, has an ongoing surveillance program to detect the presence of any strain of AI. Each year, approximately 30,000 birds are tested in Indiana for AI and other diseases that could affect the state's poultry industry. Commercial and exhibition poultry are routinely tested to ensure they meet the highest international health standards.

To brief state officials on the state's current readiness in the event that H5N1 strain of avian influenza is identified in the United States or Indiana, Dr. Marsh hosted a meeting in November for many of the state agencies that would play pivotal roles in a coordinated response effort. Dr. Marsh was joined by Lt. Governor Becky Skillman along with the directors and staff of several state agencies and Purdue University officials to discuss the established planning efforts for response to a foreign animal disease, as well as the challenges and opportunities that require action.

Veterinarians who suspect a case of highly pathogenic avian influenza should contact the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at Purdue University (phone: 765-494-7440) to submit dead birds for testing. A veterinary referral is not required for poultry and exotic pet bird species. Backyard flocks represent an important surveillance group to ensure this disease has not spread to the state of Indiana.

More information about avian influenza is available on the BOAH website at [www.boah.in.gov](http://www.boah.in.gov), click on the avian link.